

## Abdul Meguid leaves for Morocco

Cairo (R) — Foreign Minister Kamal Meguid left for Morocco Saturday to take part in a meeting ahead of next week's Arab summit, the first attended by Egypt in 10 years. Meguid will attend a foreign ministers meeting Sunday to prepare the May 23 summit agenda. "We now feel there is a new spirit which predicts goodwill in the Arab Nation," Abdul Meguid told the National Middle East News Agency (MENA) at Cairo airport. However King Hassan telephoned President Hosni Mubarak Tuesday and invited him to the summit, Egyptian newspapers, reflecting official protocol, had said Mubarak would not attend unless he received an official invitation similar to those sent to other Arab leaders. Egypt, which in December 1967, two and half years before its league membership was suspended, sent a team to the summit, has been held since then without Mubarak or his predecessor, Anwar Sadat.

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Thousands throng Peking Square; Zhao said to step down; army loyalty in doubt

## Martial law fails to quell Chinese revolt

PEKING (Agencies) — Chinese authorities imposed martial law in Peking Saturday to stop a student-led rebellion after thousands of citizens fought hand-to-hand with troops trying to enter the capital.

Witnesses told Reuters workers, peasants and students scuffled with unarmed troops on the main road leading into Peking 20 kilometres south of the city.

The announcement of martial law failed to disperse the 200,000 people who had gathered in Tiananmen Square, symbolic heart of Chinese communism, and clustered round buses holding hunger-striking students.

Communist Party chief Zhao Ziyang, a reformist exempted from student calls for changes in the country's leadership, resigned Friday because of sharp differences over how to handle the unprecedented public protest, Chinese sources said Saturday.

Zhao was conspicuously absent from a meeting of leaders held Friday to announce that troops would be brought into Peking to put down protests calling for democracy and freedom.

The demonstrators had called for the resignations of top leader Deng Xiaoping and Premier Li Peng.

Hardliner Li would become acting party chief, the sources said.

They said Zhao resigned as party general secretary because he opposed bringing in the army against the protesters, an action unprecedented in the Chinese capital in the four tumultuous

decades since the communists took power.

It was the death of another fallen reformer, Hu Yaobang, Zhao's predecessor as party leader, that started a series of protests by students beginning last month. Hu fell after being accused of being soft on democracy-seeking students.

The first full day of martial law drew to close with students and their supporters in noisy but uneasy control of the capital and few troops in sight.

Hundreds of thousands of people converged on Tiananmen Square at sunset, many determined to protect the pro-democracy students encamped there from what they feared might be a nighttime army attack.

"Supporters are going in by the truckload to protect the students on the square," said one public transport worker. "We feel there will be bloodshed."

Meanwhile, about 3,000 students who had been on a hunger strike there, some for as long as a week, decided to abandon their fast Saturday afternoon to conserve their strength for the struggle ahead, student leaders said.

Other leaders said they gave up the hunger strike because the government lacked conscience and it wasn't worth it.

The Peking protests marred the

visit here of Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that reestablished ties between the leading communist nations, an event that was supposed to bring a high note to the ending career of 84-year-old Deng. Deng introduced free-market economic reforms to China but balked at political change.

The sources said the news of Zhao's resignation had not been officially announced because the leadership feared it would further inflame the situation.

Thousands of students, workers and peasants massed near the Li Jiao bridge on the main highway leading into the capital from the south, fought troops trying to enter the city, one witness said.

He said trucks were placed across the highway, blocking it.

The incident at the bridge was the first clash since the current series of protests began.

The convoy of several hundred army trucks stopped in the road and one truck unloaded a column of troops who, with arms linked, tried to force their way through the massive crowd of protesters.

Crying women clung to the soldiers and implored them to turn back. Other protesters scuffled with the soldiers. After 20 minutes of fighting, the troops managed to advance several hundred metres only to find their way blocked by trucks parked across the road.

Hundreds of students, to the cheers of onlookers, blocked half the six-lane highway by sitting under the bridge where the fighting began.

"Long live the Peoples Army,"

cried one. "No violence."

And a worker shouted: "The writing is on the wall for this government."

Demonstrations spread to provincial cities and even rural towns Saturday, witnesses said, a sign that mass public anger was fueling the growing rebellion.

Unconfirmed reports of strikes in provincial coalfields reached Peking and journalists in parts of the official media revolted against a government ban on reporting disturbances.

The ancient capital of Xian in northern China came to a standstill when 300,000 protesters, sympathetic citizens and onlookers packed the city's streets, a Western witness said by telephone.

On Shanghai's waterfront, 20,000 students flanked by thousands of sympathetic city workers protested for the fifth day running in support of 400 hunger strikers who have gone without food outside government headquarters since Tuesday.

After martial law was declared by the central government Peking municipal authorities imposed strict limits on foreign journalists, banning reporting and photography in areas covered by martial law.

They also said security forces had been given "special powers" to enforce order in the eight districts where martial law was imposed, state television said.

The regulations prohibited strikes, demonstrations, speeches or the passing of false information.

The foreign ministers of Jordan, Algeria, Kuwait, Sudan, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates are following up an Arab League initiative to end some of the heaviest shelling in Lebanon's 14-year civil war and secure a political settlement.

They will join the other Arab League foreign ministers later Sunday in two days of preparations for an emergency summit covering Lebanon, Palestine and Middle East peace moves.

The summit will mark Egypt's full return to the Arab World, more than a decade it was suspended from the league.

On Palestine, the kings, presidents and emirs are expected to give their seal of approval to the two-state solution adopted by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) at a landmark session of the Palestine National Council in Algiers last November.

In Lebanon, a 10-day-old ceasefire mediated by the league has largely held after two months of savage battles between the troops of army commander Michel Aoun and Syrian forces and their militiamen. At least 350 people were killed.

But the mediators do not feel the situation is stable enough yet to send in a force of more than 300 troops.

Arab League officials in Tunis said the talks in Casablanca should decide how many observers each of the six states would contribute and would consider ways to persuade the Lebanese to implement all the terms of an April peace plan.

The main obstacle is the blockade imposed by both sides on each other's ports in attempts to stop the flow of arms and ammunition.

Jordan is represented at the meeting by Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasem, who arrived here Saturday.

In Beirut, Aoun urged Arab states Saturday to act quickly to save his country.

"Lebanon's future is at the crossroads, so is the Arab League's credibility and its existence," Aoun told a news conference in a basement shelter at the shell-scarred presidential palace.

"The (Arab) national duty does not permit, and should not allow, the sacrifice of one of the league's founding members."

An independent English daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation

جordan Times

## Islamic states back S. Arabia

Riyadh (R) — Islamic states have backed Saudi Arabia in a dispute with Iran over how many people can visit Mecca for the annual Haj pilgrimage. Ministers of religious affairs and Islamic endowments from 41 Islamic states ended a four-day conference in Jeddah Friday by affirming the "unquestionable right" of Saudi Arabia to protect the holy sites in Mecca and Medina, officials said. The delegates, meeting under the auspices of the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), also agreed that Muslim countries should once again be limited to no more than one pilgrim per thousand of their population on the 1989 Haj. The limit was set for the 1988 Haj after more than 400 people, mostly Iranian pilgrims, were killed in riots in Mecca in 1987. Iran, one of four invited countries which did not attend this week's meeting, protested vociferously at the imposition of the quota and boycotted last year's pilgrimage. It has also pressed for an international Islamic body to take charge of Mecca and Medina.



A scene from the sea of people gathered in Peking's Tiananmen Square demanding democracy.

## Arab foreign ministers meet today

CASABLANCA, Morocco (Agencies) — A team of six mediators struggling to bring peace to Lebanon will launch high-level Arab diplomacy Sunday to try to enforce a ceasefire and deploy truce observers.

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## Arafat accuses Israel of massacre after failure of elections proposal

## 2 Palestinian boys killed, 12 wounded



Bound and blindfolded Palestinians are guarded by Israeli soldiers after the occupation forces raised the West Bank village of Surif this week.

for his crimes, the United Leadership of the Uprising calls on its soldier forces to... liquidate one of our people."

Palestinians said the call for revenge applied to Arabs who died after the date of the leaflet — May 22 — and not those killed earlier in the revolt.

### Israel accused of massacre

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat accused Israel of carrying out a massacre in the occupied territories because its elections plan had been rejected.

He said the Israeli army had killed 16 Palestinians, injured more than 250 and arrested 1,200 in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over the past four days.

Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), told reporters the massacre followed the failure of Israeli leaders "to neutralise our people and force them to accept the conspiracy of the elections."

Speaking at the Palestine embassy in Baghdad, he accused Israel and the U.S. government of working together to impose elections on the occupied territories through different tactics.

He called for an urgent debate in the U.N. Security Council on the violence but said he expected the United States to block attempts to condemn Israel.

Shamir has launched a domestic and international drive to sell

his plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip leading to an interim period of limited autonomy.

Foreign Minister Moshe Arens and Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin flew to the United States this week to promote the proposals, opposed by many Palestinians because they do not provide for international supervision of the polls and make no mention of the final status of the territories.

### Armed resistance

Arafat also warned Saturday that the resistance against Israel would escalate if Israeli forces continue their killings.

"So far our people refrained from using arms in resisting the occupation forces, but the Israelis should understand that our patience is limited," Arafat said.

"But how long we can keep our Palestinian people facing the Israeli crimes alone," Arafat said.

The Palestinian leader acknowledged that the uprising has entered a new phase, which could involve "more active resistance."

"We said we will take our resistance further and the Israelis understand what we mean by that," he said.

His statement came a day after three Palestinians and one Israeli soldier were killed in the West Bank in the first firefight with armed Arabs during the 17-month uprising.

## Panama bans demonstrations

PANAMA CITY (Agencies) — The government Saturday prohibited a rally Wednesday to coincide with the visit of the OAS foreign ministers.

Opposition vice-presidential candidate Ricardo Arias Calderon said the ban mocked the OAS and the resolution it passed this week condemning Noriega. But he refused to say whether the opposition would obey the ban.

Minister of Government and Justice Rodolfo Chiriqui de Leon said in a statement that Marches, rallies, demonstrations and processions of vehicles would be banned until the foreign ministers had carried out their mission and reported back to the OAS.

The foreign ministers of Ecuador, Guatemala and Trinidad and Tobago, accompanied by OAS Secretary-General Joao Batista Soares, are due in Panama Tuesday. They will try to promote resolution of Panama's 15-month-old crisis.

The foreign ministers of the U.S. embassy spokesman Terry Kneebone, responding to a government communiqué, said the attempt to link the U.S. government to the election-related violence was "propaganda foolishness."

International observers say opposition candidates were winning the national election May 7 when the government annulled the results. Since then, there has been no decision on how to select a replacement for acting president Manuel Sobera Palma, whose

## Bush, Mitterrand in Maine summit

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (R) — President George Bush welcomed French President Francois Mitterrand to his New England holiday home Saturday for an overnight visit and talks centering on a NATO row over short-range nuclear missiles.

Mitterrand, accompanied by his wife Danielle and an official party that included French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas, travelled to Bush's seaside estate from a nearby air force base after arriving in the United States from Canada.

Clapping his hands like a delighted schoolboy as Mitterrand alighted from his helicopter, Bush joined his wife Barbara in greeting their guests.

"I view this meeting with your president as very important to bilateral relations which are very strong, but also very important to the alliance," Bush told French reporters before his visitors arrived.

He said he looked forward to "in-depth, wide-ranging conversations" with Mitterrand.

The two leaders planned several hours of meetings and a working lunch with their top advisers.

While there was no fixed agenda for their informal summit, U.S. and French officials said the

dispute within the Western alliance over whether to agree to short-range nuclear missile (SNM) negotiations with the Soviet Union would be a prime topic of discussion.

Led by West Germany, nearly half of the 16 countries in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) are pressing for SNM talks. The United States and Britain oppose such a move, contending that NATO needs the missiles to offset the Soviet-led Warsaw Pact's vast superiority in conventional arms.

The main obstacle is the blockade imposed by both sides on each other's ports in attempts to stop the flow of arms and ammunition.

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"The (Arab) national duty does not permit, and should not allow, the sacrifice of one of the league's founding members."

The leaflet, the 40th in a series, said: "Stemming from a position of self-defence and the need to make the enemy pay a high price

## Kuwait committed to Lebanon solution

By Patrick Weir  
Reuter

KUWAIT — Kuwait, spearheading the most-determined Arab initiative on Lebanon in a decade, is keen to add the 14-year-old civil war there to a growing list of regional settlements around the world.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah has from the start been deeply involved in efforts to end the fighting and to untangle the political legacy that set them at each others' throats.

His efforts climax next week when a six-member Arab League committee he heads presents its conclusions to an emergency Arab summit that begins in Casablanca, Morocco, Tuesday.

"I think he saw an opening," said one Western diplomat. "The situation in the area is very different than it was 14 years ago. There has been progress recently in solving regional disputes throughout the world."

Sheikh Sabah's committee meets in Casablanca Sunday to put the finishing touches to its proposals, which aim to set Lebanon on the road already being travelled by Namibia, Afghanistan and Cambodia.

The draft proposals include steps toward political reform of Lebanon's Christian-dominated political system and the dispatch of a force of 300 Arab observers led by a Kuwaiti commander to monitor a ceasefire.

"There are important consequences for the Arab League and

for Lebanon," said one diplomat. "The thing that is significant is that this (meeting) is the top of the ladder."

"If it were to succeed it would be one of the Arab League's biggest successes... if it failed it would really question the Arab League's ability to handle contentious problems," he added.

Sheikh Sabah, a brother of Kuwait's emir and the world's longest-serving foreign minister, was a driving force behind the first Arab League initiative in Lebanon when Kuwaiti troops joined an Arab peacekeeping force sent to the country in 1976.

Kuwait was also one of four countries on an Arab League disengagement committee that for several years doggedly tried to end the fighting.

His latest Lebanon mission, begun in January, has been punctuated by some of the fiercest fighting in the entire civil war, with more than 350 people killed.

But he pressed on with fact-finding meetings with various Lebanese factions, never losing sight of the longer goal of political reform to concentrate merely on getting a ceasefire, which took effect last week.

Diplomats said Sheikh Sabah knew the dangers of sending Kuwaitis to Beirut in a contingent of Arab observers.

"There is a trial going on here for Shia subversion and now he wants to send troops where Kuwait has had threats. It shows a seriousness of purpose," one said.

## Sudan overcomes hitch in aid distribution plan

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's government has reached an agreement with rebels fighting in the south which will permit delivery of famine relief by rail, according to a senior U.N. official.

Bryan Wannop, coordinator of a U.N.-sponsored relief operation for south Sudan, said a train loaded with 1,500 tonnes of supplies would leave soon from Al Muglad in south Kordofan province for Aweil, 250 kilometres to the south.

The delivery is part of the \$132-million "Lifeline Sudan" operation launched April 1 to help some 2.2 million people.

The train's departure, originally scheduled for Sunday, was delayed by last-minute objections from the government to plans to drop off the relief in a rebel-held area.

Wannop told Reuters the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) and the government had since agreed to a new plan under which one third of the 1,500 tonnes would be dropped off at the rebel-held town of Mabior.

The rest would be dropped off at the army-controlled towns of Aweil and Mawal. All three towns are in the northern part of the southern Bahr Al Ghazal region. Malwal and Mabior lie between Al Muglad and Aweil.

## Iran to return Kuwait boat

KUWAIT (R) — Iran has acknowledged through intermediaries that it is holding a missing Kuwaiti coastguard boat, released the crew and promised to send back the vessel, Kuwaiti sources said Saturday.

The sources, who asked not to be identified, said Kuwait was informed by Oman that the boat, which disappeared near the Khor Abdullah water-way May 9, was in Iranian hands.

Iran released the crew, including several Egyptian workers, and is preparing to return the

## Greece rejects U.S. call

ATHENS (AP) — The government has rejected a U.S. call for a decision on the extradition of a Palestinian to the United States before the June 18 elections in Greece.

"The government policy on the issue has been defined," government spokesman Sotiris Kostopoulos said. He was reacting to a U.S. State Department statement Thursday that called for Mohammad Rashid's extradition before the elections.

They said Arab Al Messaria militiamen had argued against dropping off half the train's cargo at Mabior, saying most of the town's inhabitants had already fled the fighting and famine to elsewhere in Sudan.

Relief workers involved in lifeline army troops at Al Muglad had sealed off the train and began a search of its cargo.

They said the search stopped before completion on urgent orders from government officials in Khartoum. The workers said they suspected the army action to be an attempt to appease chiefs of Al Messaria.

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craft, the sources said.

Kuwaiti newspapers reported last week that the boat had disappeared after giving chase to a craft that tried to infiltrate Kuwaiti waters. Six Kuwaitis were on board.

Kuwaiti sources also said Saturday that 42 Iranians apparently seeking work were caught trying to sneak into Kuwait by boat.

Sirens wailed late Friday evening along the seaside in the fashionable Salmiya district as police rushed to round up the

PLO.

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## QAF week for handicapped children ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — In a continuous drive to promote the delivery of services offered to the handicapped in Jordan, the Queen Alia Jordan Social Welfare Fund has recently held a national week for the hearing impaired and the mentally handicapped children, according to the director of coordination and follow-up at the QAF, Shadia Nassee.

The national week (which was launched on May 13 and ended on May 20) aimed at finding means of coordinating the efforts of concerned social organisations in order to prevent duplication of services. This would consequently lead to the extension of these

services to other needy people in different areas.

"Since its establishment, the QAF has worked hard on fulfilling the aspirations put out by Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, the chairperson of the QAF's board of directors. Those being the provision of the best methods and means for mobilising efforts and capacities in order to deliver high quality services to the handicapped," Nassee said.

Nassee also pointed out that the fund was the first to conduct a comprehensive survey of the handicapped in Jordan in 1978; the findings of which were released in 1979. The survey, she

said, contributed to the evaluation of the problem, and to defining the number of handicapped people in different regions of the country, thus assisting the concerned institutions to plan their priorities in accordance with their resources.

"During the past five years, the fund has established four centres for special education, one for the rehabilitation of the hearing impaired in Yajour, the other for special education in Mu'tah, Karak, a third for the rehabilitation of the physically handicapped in Irbid and another similar one, in Amman," Nassee said.

Nassee then noted that the fund has initiated cooperation with the Ministry of Education as of the beginning of the school year 1987/1988, and has built classes for slow learning children, affiliated with the public schools in three Karak villages. According to Nassee, similar classes will be built at the beginning of the next school year.

Nassee assured that the QAF conducts an annual assessment of its programmes and activities, carried out in the previous year. This, she said, helps in benefiting from the past experiences and in finding means of solving possible future problems that the fund may encounter.

## Jordan committed to protection of environment — Al Jaber

NAIROBI (J.T.) — Jordan is committed to implementing international agreements on the protection of the environment and the ozone layer; and has incorporated its national environmental strategy in its five-year development plan that ends by 1990. Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber said here Saturday.

Jordan along with 23 countries had signed a declaration that ensures the United Nations as a watchdog against pollution of the earth's atmosphere and are international agreement on controlling the process of dumping dangerous waste, the minister noted in an address to a United Nations-sponsored environment conference held in Nairobi, Kenya.

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organised the conference which began here on May 16 with the participation of 60 ministers in charge of environment issues in their respective countries.

Al Jaber said that the Jordanian government exerts all possible efforts to carry out provisions in various Jordanian agreements with world organisations, the United Nations and other countries.

Jordan holds seminars and conferences and cooperates with Arab countries in implementing projects aimed at protecting the environment from pollution, and is going ahead with plans to stem desertification and to green the country through afforestation



Yousef Hamdan Al Jaber  
layer, acid rain, desertification, biological dangers resulting from chemical materials and other issues will be tackled at the Nairobi conference.

## Roads claim four lives, injure 149

## Implement King's directives

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Public Works and Housing Shafiq Zawaideh Saturday met with heads of public works departments in various provinces to urge them to help implement directives contained in His Majesty King Hussein's letter of designation to the government.

Zawaideh said all questions of concern to the public should be given priority and all endeavours must be made to help improve the condition of roads in the Kingdom.

The meeting discussed a number of technical and administrative issues of concern to these departments, and the minister asked that the heads of the departments submit proposals about priorities.

Tenders for road projects and allocations for schemes were also discussed at the meeting which was held in the presence of the minister's secretary general.



RECOGNITION: His Majesty King Hussein Saturday received Ghaleb Freihat, the first blind student to obtain a Masters degree in translation from Yarmouk University. A panel of professors from Yarmouk University Tuesday discussed his thesis on contemporary scientific and technical

terms in the Arabic language. The thesis also proposed the creation of a specialised Arabic language school in charge of scientific terms.

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## Jordan Times

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## Escalating Israeli oppression

THE current Israeli government appears to be entertaining the false belief that by increasing the cost of the intifada for the struggling Palestinians it will be able to tighten the noose around the neck of the uprising in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Thus what started with a well-calculated design to close universities and schools in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under the deceitful pretext that agitation starts in school rooms rather than in the streets has now ended up by the application of stiff economic measures to strangle the Palestinian economy in the form of placing most of the Palestinian districts under arbitrary quarantine to cut them off from their traditional sources of income. This has been coupled with a deliberate heating up of Israeli oppression against the Palestinians which has reached of late a new danger point. With Palestinian casualty figures on the rise there is no escape from the conclusion that Israeli-Palestinian relations are in for a new showdown the like of which has not been witnessed before.

All this Israeli escalation of the confrontation with the Palestinians has been occurring against the backdrop of confirmed analysis, reports and findings, including ones prepared by Israeli experts, that the Palestinian intifada cannot be quashed by military might but rather by realistic political means. Thus, and in an arrogant defiance of all advise, domestic and international, the Israeli ruling establishment has opted to move upstream against the current of common sense and realism. Where this Israeli stubbornness would lead the Middle East God only knows. There is one thing certain however, and that is with this Israeli mentality and perspective the Palestinian conflict is doomed to remain unresolved for another generation or two in which more Arab and Israeli blood will surely be unnecessarily shed. This gloom and doom hanging ominously now over the Arab-Israeli conflicts can still dissipate if the many Israelis who dread the perpetuation of the armed conflict in the area and have championed the cause of moderation and reasonable accommodation with the Palestinian side ever would make their voices louder and in due course precipitate a genuine change of government in Tel Aviv in which people standing solidly on the side of just peace would assume the helm of Israeli politics.



### JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily on Saturday commented on a statement by the International Monetary Fund which endorsed Jordan's credibility in its struggle to maintain its efforts to adapt to the new economic situation and pay off its debts. The paper quoted the statement as saying that Jordan was handling the crisis courageously and is carrying out reforms and therefore deserves continued assistance. Jordan has thus proved to the world that the current difficulties it is facing will never shake its credibility but on the contrary will encourage world organisations to extend a helping hand to the Kingdom to tidy its economy over the present circumstances, the paper noted. Jordanian people draw further encouragement and optimism from King Hussein's statement on Thursday that his talks with leaders of Arab countries over Jordan's present difficulties were encouraging and that further meetings have been planned to discuss the question, the paper added. It said that the Jordanian people hope that brotherly states will finally come to the help of Jordan which guards the longest confrontation line with the Israeli enemy.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily proposes that the government hold regular dialogues with the representatives of the various sectors of the Jordanian public. Ibrahim Sakkiha says that in the absence of parliament in Jordan the prime minister is holding meetings with notables from Jordanian cities as he did with the people of Maan and those of the professional associations. It would be a very constructive step to maintain such meetings on a regular basis grouping government ministers and representatives of municipalities, unions, organisations, teachers and students and employees etc. The more people the government meets the richer will be the dialogue and the clearer will be the picture before government and people alike, the writer notes. Sakkiha says that the prime minister himself voiced his support for a free dialogue, but that this dialogue should be organised and must never mean an invitation to chaos.

Al Dostour daily Saturday commented on Israel's escalation of repression against the Palestinian people. The ongoing hysterical atrocities and killings practised by the Israeli government and its troops against the Palestinians are designed as a move to force the indigenous population to succumb to Israel's will and accept occupation as a way of life, the paper noted. It said that the continued killings, the demolition of Arab homes, the detention of youth and the imposition of curfews are all meant as a form of intimidation of the Palestinian people, a policy which proved a failure. The current atrocities are being committed as Shamir continues to advocate his election proposals which have been rejected in their present form as a delaying tactic, the paper said. It said that the world community should take serious and speedy measures to stop such atrocities and force Israel to accept the principles of a lasting peace.

### Sunday's Economic Pulse

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

## The devaluation of the dinar in retrospect

WHAT happened to the Jordanian dinar during the past twelve months has become history, but history can be evaluated in retrospect although it is irreversible.

The chain of events that led to the devaluation of the dinar started on May 2, 1988, when the people rushed to the moneychangers to change their dinars into dollars, seeing that the Central Bank reserve of foreign convertible currencies was almost melting down. The exchange rate of the dinar lost 15 per cent to the dollar in one day, without any official decision made to that effect. The government and the Central Bank stood firmly in favour of maintaining the official exchange rate. CBJ threw several million dollars into the thin parallel market and ordered the banking system to abide by the official rate. Things appeared to have got back to normal.

A second rush on the dinar took place on June 2, 1988 when people realised that the foreign exchange position of CBJ was not improving, and that the depletion of the reserve became a matter of time. Once more the dinar dropped in the moneychangers market by around 20 per cent. Again the official position was a stubborn determination on upholding the declared exchange rate. The CBJ intervened with whatever dollars it had left and issued further strict orders to the banks; and once more things appeared to have returned to normal.

Until then it was evident that both the government and the CBJ

were determined to protect the exchange rate and avoid devaluation at any price. They were acting on the conviction of some economists and all politicians who looked at the dinar as a sacred untouchable symbol. Everything was used to achieve this unrealistic objective, including orders and the use of the meager reserve left.

However, the economic and financial realities were stronger than the vehement decision. The crisis reproduced itself for the third time on Oct. 10, 1988. This time the CBJ was completely out of free dollars, and could not intervene. After four days of hesitation, the dinar was already devalued in the market, and could have plunged to any level.

At this point, the fixed rate of the dinar was no more a practical option. If the government insisted on having banks use the official rate, no one would sell a single dollar to the banking system as long as the moneychangers were offering a 25 per cent premium. Therefore the floating of the dinar on Oct. 15, 1988 was no more than a recognition of an *ex facto* devaluation dictated by market forces.

The floating system was meant to allow the CBJ to withdraw gracefully from the management of exchange rate that was no more manageable. The CBJ simply did not have dollars to back or protect any exchange rate.

Floating of the currency is an exceptional case in developing

countries. It outlived its usefulness. Time was ripe to a return to fixed rate, but at the new market-determined level. This step was not taken until Feb. 8, 1989 under the pressure of a new speculation wave against the dinar in the moneychangers market. Perhaps the step should have been taken one month earlier, at the beginning of the year, but the government had already developed the habit of not acting except in a crisis environment: to put off fires instead of preventing them.

The point is that the chain of changes in the dinar value did not result from willful decisions. The government did not create new facts, it was reacting under difficult circumstances, and was obliged to choose the least of two levels.

The major mistake was not in the actions taken towards the dinar. At the time, no alternative option was available. The major mistake lies in allowing the fundamentals of the economy to reach that stage. Under a balance of payments deficit of around \$400 million, and under a budget deficit of around JD 400 million, it is impossible to maintain any exchange rate.

The blind determination to keep a fixed and over-valued exchange rate that was not supported by the fundamentals of the economy was a dangerous prescription that was attempted in a number of Arab and socialist countries, with disastrous consequences which we did not need to go through.

## OAS condemnation leaves Noriega isolated

By John Reichert  
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Organisation of American States (OAS) criticism of Panamanian强人Manuel Antonio Noriega has left him isolated and under pressure to leave but not finished, foreign policy analysts said on Thursday.

The 51-year-old general, a tough and wily political survivor, is by all accounts well entrenched as commander of the Panamanian defence forces, the nation's major political power broker, they said.

With Noriega in control of the nation's arms, there is little agreement among Panamanians as to how to fill the power vacuum if he were to leave, they said. The lack of a clear alternative could prove the greatest obstacle to his departure, they said.

"There is a very complicated scenario, and if a negotiated solution is to be found several very difficult issues are going to have to be resolved," said Eva Loser, an analyst at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater said the United States, which for 15 months has sought Noriega's removal from power, was very pleased with the OAS action as it condemned Noriega by name.

They also said the command structure of the military, which has been totally loyal to Noriega, would have to be analysed. An agreement also would have to be reached on the role of the defence forces.

Also, a decision would have to be made as to whether the results of the May 7 elections would be resurrected or new elections would be held, they said.

The OAS on Wednesday condemned Noriega for abusing the elections and called for a transfer of power. The OAS resolution put pressure on all sectors of Panama to reach agreement on what might come next.

It also gave a three-nation diplomatic team, assisted by OAS Secretary General Joao Baena Soares, until June 6 to work out a national accord for the transfer of power respecting the will of Panamanian people.

"The grave events and the abuses by... Noriega in the crisis and the electoral process in Panama could unleash an escalation of violence with its attendant risks to the life and safety of persons," it said.

White House spokesman Marvin Fitzwater said the United States, which for 15 months has sought Noriega's removal from power, was very pleased with the OAS action as it condemned Noriega by name.

"It represented a vote of all the OAS states and we're gratified that the OAS countries share United States position," he told reporters.

The 31-nation-body, made up of the United States, Latin America and the Caribbean, was called after both the opposition and pro-Noriega candidates claimed victory in recent Panamanian elections.

The United States, Panama's Roman Catholic church and international observers said the opposition candidates won by a wide margin. But the government annulled the vote because of what it said was U.S. interference.

Viron Vaky, a former assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said the OAS action aimed directly at getting rid of Noriega.

"It would be very difficult for him to ignore it or try to bluff his way out," Vaky said. But Vaky said the departure of Noriega would not automatically mean that Panama would overnight turn into a wonderful democracy.

The Panama crisis first surfaced in February 1988, when Florida courts indicted Noriega on drug-trafficking and racketeering charges. When Panamanian President Eric Delvalle attempted to relieve Noriega of his command, the general ousted Delvalle.

## Murder of Sunni leader robs Lebanon of precious moderate

By Peter Simerdon  
Reuter

BEIRUT — The assassination of the religious head of Lebanon's Sunni Muslim community has robbed the country of one of the last leaders who still believed compromise could end its 14-year civil war.

Diplomats and political analysts said the only clear lesson from Tuesday's murder of Sheikh Hassan Khaled in west Beirut was how far Lebanon had plunged into extremism.

Now it was certain to fall even deeper, they predicted.

"There is no way killing the mufti served another purpose," said a Lebanese political analyst. "This country is already drowning in blood. Now we all know that some people want more."

Twenty-one other people were killed and 80 wounded by the car bomb triggered by remote control to silence the 68-year-old religious head of the moderate Sunni community.

"His loss is bound to make things more extreme," said Western ambassador in Beirut.

"Not only have we lost an advocate of the middle ground but it will invite reprisals. One would be naive if one did not believe that it will contribute to the spiral of violence. He was a conciliator."

Sheikh Hassan was not a central player in the civil war.

But he found a role as a mediator in a conflict which has overturned the traditional political order in which a Sunni Muslim held the country's second most powerful post of prime minister.

The question of who killed the mufti might be the source of heated argument, but was a secondary consideration to the damage done to moderates by his death and the backlash which was bound to follow.

The loss was magnified by the fact it came five days into a precarious ceasefire which had almost stopped two months of some of the worst bombardments of the civil war.

"He gave an impression of great integrity and one knew that he was very attached to, and worked hard for, Lebanon's unity," said the Western diplomat.

"It was one of the great offices of state, the grand mufti of the republic. But he was much more than a religious leader."

The parties to Lebanon's conflict from either side of the Christian-Muslim divide swiftly condemned the killing and

started, implicitly or explicitly, to blame their enemies.

They know it is highly unlikely the identity of the killer or killers can be established beyond doubt in a country which has been tearing itself apart with foreign help since 1975.

Prime Minister Rashid Karami was assassinated in 1987. His successor, Selim Hoss, and Sheikh Hassan were together in September 1984 when they narrowly escaped death from a car bomb.

The Lebanese crisis has intensified over the past 10 months following parliament's failure to elect a president to succeed former head of state Amin Gemayel. This has left the country without a unified leadership and with a deadlocked assembly.

The mufti's importance increasingly lay in his position as a mediator sought out by those — most recently the Arab League — looking for ways to bring peace to Lebanon.

"He was a person of great dignity and charm," said the Western ambassador. "His reputation was very high among all communities."

## Iceland's woman president says world needs strong women

By Alan Elsner  
Reuter

REYKJAVIK — Iceland's President Vigdis Finnbogadottir, who in 1980 became the world's first popularly-elected woman head of state, says nine years in office have turned her into an ardent feminist.

"Before I was president, I had never thought of feminist issues. The study of society I have had to do linked to my job showed me that the state of women's emancipation was nothing to boast about in this country, to say nothing of the rest of the world," Finnbogadottir said.

"I am a feminist mainly for the sake of men. They miss so much energy and intelligence by not having women by their sides participating as equal partners," she told Reuters in an interview.

Blonde and always elegantly-dressed, Finnbogadottir, 58, has emerged as a symbol of national unity in this North Atlantic island of 250,000 people, combining her job as president with that of a single parent raising an adopted daughter.

Her picture is displayed not only in government offices but also in airports, many shops and restaurants.

Outpolling three male opponents to win the presidency in 1980, she was reelected unopposed in 1984 and won a third term last year, with around 95 per cent of the vote — an almost unique event in a democracy.

Despite her success, many Icelandic women still feel excluded by traditional political parties. Some have formed their own party which excludes men and which won about 10 per cent of the vote in the last general election.

Finnbogadottir, who in 1985 joined a one-day strike by Icelandic women against inequality, is sympathetic to their aims.

"While the women within the political parties cannot advance,

it is understandable that women should want to do something about it," she said.

"I have taken the example of the death penalty. I would never take responsibility to sign such a bill," she said.

Finnbogadottir said she regarded the death penalty as obscene wherever it was implemented and could not view it as an internal matter to be decided on by individual states.

"I am against it wherever it is. I don't think any human being has the right to take another human life and especially not the right to turn it into an entertainment," she declared.

Asked about the big U.S. airbase at Keflavik, Finnbogadottir simply asked this reporter to switch off his tape recorder before giving an answer.

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## Bani Hamida rugs— a continuing success

By Meg Abu Hamida  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — An exhibition of rugs, woven by the women on Mount Bani Hamida, now a familiar spring event, was opened last week by Her Majesty Queen Noor. As always, the rugs were sumptuously displayed, the setting this time being a recently restored section of Khirbet Abu Jaber.

The cool, dark interior of the cross-vaulted stable offset perfectly the beauty of the hand-woven rugs outside in the courtyard; people were able to enjoy homemade foods — a new departure for the project — as they watched one of the bedouin women hard at work weaving a rug on a ground loom.

In addition to food this year's exhibition featured a display of some 36 quilts and small leather items such as bags and wallets. These point to changes in this well-established project that was initiated back in 1985 by Save the Children Federation (SCF) in cooperation with the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) to promote and revive traditional Jordanian handicrafts. The most radical of these changes is to turn the Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project, which now involves around 400 women living in 12 villages scattered over Jabal Bani Hamida, located some 75 kilometers south of Amman, into a self-sustaining viable business run not by the development sector but by the bedouin women themselves.

"This is the phase the project is now in," the director of Save the Children Fund (SCF) in Jordan, Rebecca Saiti, told the Jordan Times.

"The challenge is to find a structure that allows the bedouin women to own their own project and at the same time run it at the highest profit level possible."

The project is currently being funded by a three-year grant from the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) via the PETRA project. The grant, which is being implemented by SCF under the aegis of the Ministry of Social Development, has been of crucial importance to the continuation of the project.

"The funding from USAID enabled us to respond to the biggest message we are getting from the Bani Hamida women, who are continually asking for more work," Saiti explained.

"We have now expanded production to the point where we are able for the first time to hold two exhibitions of the rugs simultaneously — next week, 25 of our best pieces will go on display at the National Council for Women in Washington."

The project has relied heavily on personal support from Queen Noor. "Her Majesty's visit to this spring exhibition is indicative of her interest in all the projects we've been setting up for women," Saiti said.

"The funding and the advice and experiences of other organisations and groups have been invaluable in helping SCF privatise the Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project, the first step of which has been to hire four Jordanians from the private sector who will run the marketing and business side in Amman."

At the same time a group of 15 young Bani Hamida women, headed by Halima, a bright

young woman trained by SCF from the early days of the project, are being trained as supervisors who will gradually take over the rug production. "This is currently being carried out by Noha Mansour, but it is hoped that by the end of this year 70 percent of production will be in the women's own hands."

The head of the Amman team is Ghada Habash who was appointed as the project manager five months ago. The rest of the Amman team will include a finance manager, a design/marketing coordinator, a production coordinator, a facilitator/driver, a bookkeeper and the secretary.

### Main strategy

Habash explained the main strategy in developing a self-sustaining project in which the bedouin women are involved.

"We have already computerised all production and sales data as well as the wages paid to the Bani Hamida women. We have also developed inventory sheets which the women are being trained to use. Everything has been tightened up so that it will be cost effective and to this end we are trying to cut down as much as possible trips out to the mountain, handing as much as we can over to the women, in particular to Halima who will be given driving lessons and a car. Our next step is to have a trademark with the name Bani Hamida incorporated within it, the idea being to make it a household name."

Market research by a local firm will be initiated next month and will be followed by a promotion campaign that will be geared towards Jordanians. So far the main purchasers of the rugs have been expatriates. Habash feels that this trend is changing and in recent months she estimates that 20 to 30 per cent of the buyers have been Jordanians.

At present the project is selling around JD 5,000 worth of rugs a month, but in order to break even this figure has to be raised to JD 8,900 or 150 rugs a month, a target that will be hopefully reached by the summer of 1990.

One of the main ways in which sales will be increased will be by the export of at least 100 rugs a month, leaving only 50 to be sold locally, a number that poses no problem. This projected increase in sales calls for a mighty 75 per cent increase in rug production per year — a figure Bani Hamida women are only too happy about.

This year 700 rugs will have been made by the women. Next year this number will increase to 1,200, and the following year to 2,500.

Up until now the rugs have been sold mainly at the spring and fall exhibitions and from the SCF premises in Jabal Weibdeh. In September that will all change and the main outlet for the rugs will be a shop located in fine old house on Jabal Amman. A committee of 12 women representing each village will advise both the Amman and Bani Hamida teams.

Another outlet for the rugs will be up on Bani Hamida itself. This weekend shop, which will be located in the former guest house of the sheikh in the village of Makawer, currently under renovation by the Ministry of Tourism, will be run by the women. Through the experience it is hoped they will start to understand something of the marketing and business side in Amman.

The project has relied heavily on personal support from Queen Noor. "Her Majesty's visit to this spring exhibition is indicative of her interest in all the projects we've been setting up for women," Saiti said.

"The funding and the advice and experiences of other organisations and groups have been invaluable in helping SCF privatise the Bani Hamida Women's Weaving Project, the first step of which has been to hire four Jordanians from the private sector who will run the marketing and business side in Amman."

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## Rare birds disappearing from U.S. zoos

By Matt Mygatt  
The Associated Press

ALBUQUERQUE — American criminals are after a new prey: rare birds. A string of rare bird thefts at several American zoos has prompted more stringent security, and even led some zoos to pull the valuable animals from exhibits.

On May 2, 1989, a thief broke into the parrot cage at the Rio Grande Zoological Park in this Southwestern U.S. city and took an Australian King Parrot, a sulphur-crested cockatoo and a dark lorikeet.

The crimson and green parrot — one of only 12 such birds in captivity — later was found dead on the zoo grounds. The lorikeet, a short-tailed parrot, flew back to the zoo. The white cockatoo with a pale yellow crest is missing.

"I'm hopeful that whoever did it got chewed up sufficiently," said Zoo Director John Moore.

"These birds are not real kind."

The global destruction of rain forests, the birds' natural habitat, and export restrictions imposed by foreign countries have driven up the value of rare birds and encouraged thefts, officials say.

Zoos in Los Angeles, San Diego, El Paso and elsewhere have been hit in recent years.

"There are people willing to pay, just like art collectors I suppose," without asking questions," said Mike Cunningham, associate curator of birds at the Los Angeles Zoo.

side of the business.

"We found that the women will never really be ever to handle the bulk of the marketing," Saiti said. "So the trick to making the project a self-sustaining viable business is to find where the women can have a say in the running of the project and how much should be left to professionals in order to make it succeed."

The designs of the rugs are one area in which professionals are often called in to help as they are able to gauge modern tastes and preferences and determine what will sell best. Working with the project at present are two professional designers one of whom is Docey Lewis who was brought in by the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in cooperation with USAID. As well as introducing new more varied and richer designs, Lewis has helped develop a new loom made of pipes that will make the craft of weaving less strenuous. Another volunteer designer helping the project is Joanne Reeve.

### New turn

Another new departure for the project is the production of quilts, leather goods, foodstuffs and soap. This income-generating scheme is being run by Taghrid Tubbah and is being carried out in three low income communities in Amman — Mahatta, Nusdar and Natheef — which have a total population of around 13,000 people and basically unserviced communities. The project is based on the skills the people already have.

"The project is not just a women's project," Tubbah explained. "It is more of a community project. We try and help everybody by providing training, technical resources and credit. We feel, however, that the women are a latent potential, their skills are generally under-used and they often have extra time on their hands. In trying to fill that gap our projects are home-based cottage industries, the aim of which is to either create or enhance sustainable viable businesses. We help and then we leave."

Most development projects, particularly those in the more densely populated areas of the world, try to help the local population produce goods that population requires. Tubbah says she has found that this approach does not work so well in Jordan, mainly because the population is just not large enough. Instead, she has concentrated on projects that produce upmarket quality items like the quilts. Designed by Rana Abu Khadra, the quilts are a stunning combination of traditional materials, designs and colours. Made out of satin, cotton and glazed cotton, the quilts glow with bright patterns created by either applique or patchwork on which different stitches have been hand-embroidered. Other items being produced by the project are lightly embroidered leather and canvas bags and wallets, and food items such as mafout and shish barak.

"The project started off in a very small way," Tubbah said. "and now it is really flourishing with the quilts selling very well indeed. What we hope to do next is to give the women such skills as book-keeping, quality control, marketing and business management so that we can eventually handover the project to them."

"If the birds are really rare, it's hard to find out where they go. It's like somebody stealing a work of art. They don't take it to the corner store and sell it."

Zoos are prime targets because they often hold rare species that aren't available to the pet trade, he says.

The lucrative black market also attracts smugglers.

"A lot of the same people that smuggle narcotics are smuggling birds. The return is just as great," said John Cross, assistant regional director of law enforcement for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in Albuquerque.

The U.S. customs service seizes rare birds almost daily along the border with Mexico, which outlaws commercial exports, said Charles Conroy, a customs spokesman in Houston.

"Large cages are strapped to wooden rafts, floated across the Rio Grande," Conroy said. "We even had one case where a woman who had an artificial leg brought six birds across in this artificial leg that has been hollowed out."

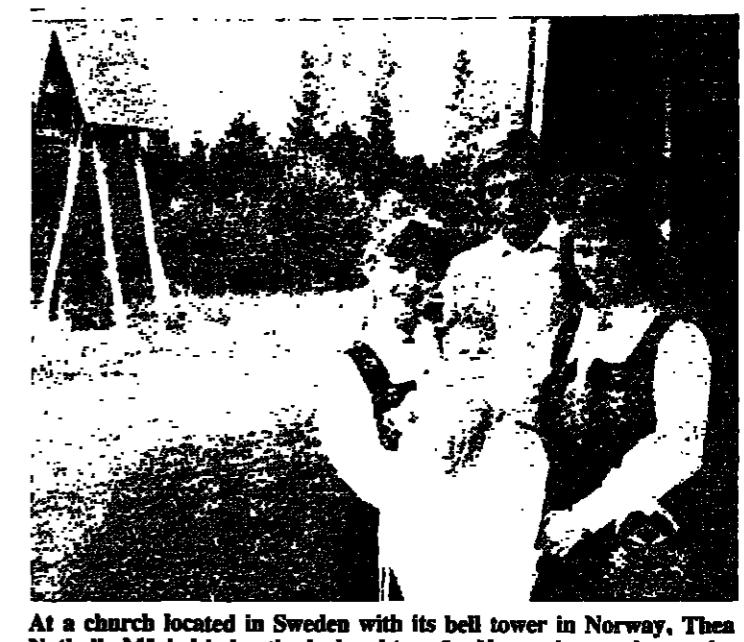
Zoo officials would not put a price on the birds.

"In one respect they're priceless," said San Diego Zoo spokesman Jeff Jouett. "In another respect, I don't want to give an incentive to anyone that would endanger the lives of these birds."

The zoo lost a pair of Australian cockatoos, which are gray with red markings, about a year



A Norwegian cycles home after working in Sweden.



At a church located in Sweden with its bell tower in Norway, Thea Nathalie Märtel is baptised, daughter of a Norwegian mother and a Swedish father.

## The invisible border

The frontier between Sweden and Norway is one that could be a model for the rest of Europe as 1992 approaches.

By Tomas Nilsson

NOTHING could be simpler than crossing Europe's longest border, the one between Sweden and Norway. Today there is little trace either of the last clashes between the two countries 200 years ago or of the tense situation that existed during World War II.

With 1992 rapidly approaching, this frontier could be the model for the rest of Europe. The building that once housed the customs authority now sells tourist souvenirs and there is not a uniformed officer to be seen. One passes from NATO to neutral and nobody notices.

Border police became superfluous in 1954 when all of the Nordic nations were consolidated into one passport control area and at the end of the 1950s the Norwegian border station in Eda was closed down. A few kilometres away a Swedish border authority handles customs surveillance for both countries, while other joint checkpoints are run by Norwegians. Both the Swedish and Norwegian border authorities have the right to operate within 15 kilometres on either side of the border.

These agreements, together with the local population's long established habit of crossing freely back and forth over the border, have rendered the border anachronistic and a long tradition of informal trade and cooperation between the people on either side continues undisturbed.

The Swedish municipalities of Eda and Arvika, with a total of 70,000 inhabitants, cooperate in different projects with four Norwegian municipalities. One objective is to enable school children to attend educational programmes on the other side of the border when they are not available in their own country. It often happens that neither side alone has sufficient resources to set up a certain educational programme. However, if the number of interested students in the entire region is taken into account more programmes can be initiated. Thus students are not forced to move to another area.

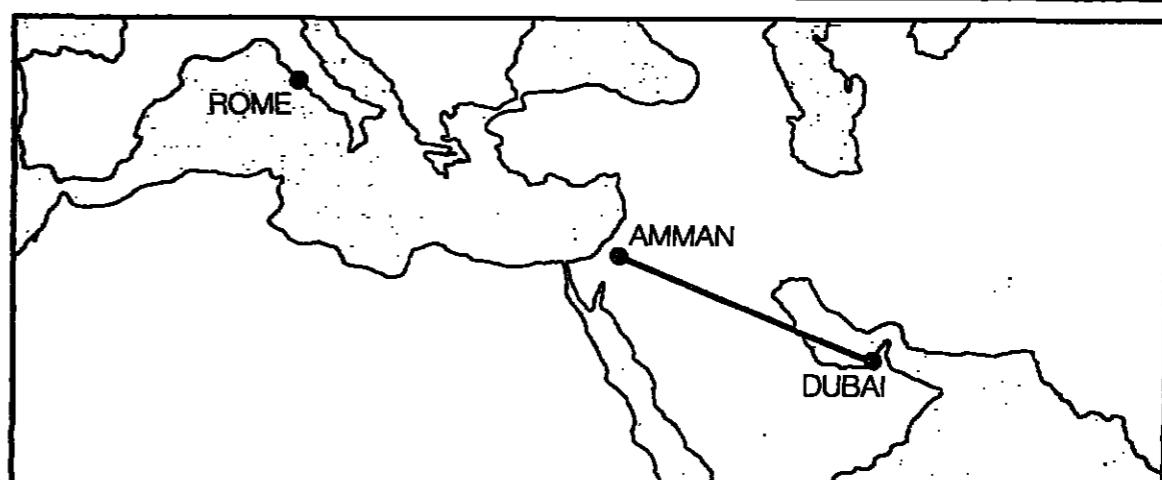
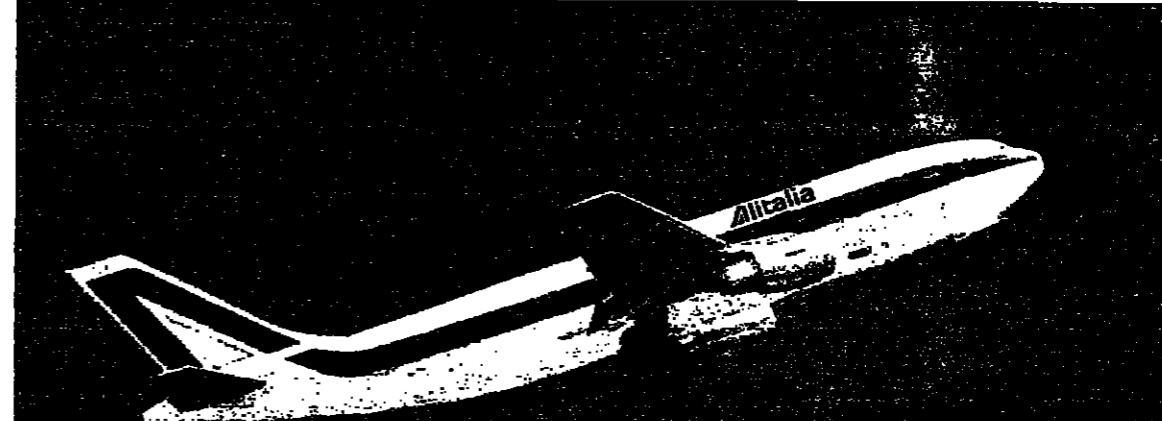
Truls Snedbol has lived in Lersjön, 30 metres inside the Swedish border, for the past 10 years. He is the manager of a window factory in Norway and he and his wife, whose parents moved to Lersjön in 1949, remain Norwegian citizens. As such the Snedbols can vote in the Swedish municipal and provincial elections and in the Norwegian national elections.

Living in one country and getting paid in another was not always as simple as it is today thanks to a Nordic double taxation agreement. Under this Truls pays taxes to the Swedish Government on his Norwegian salary.

A 10 per cent tax is also collected by the Norwegian Government which will provide Truls with compensation if he falls sick. This money is also used to furnish supplementary pension payments for his retirement. The base pension payments are provided by the Swedish Government.

"We feel like Norwegians, but our everyday life is Swedish,"

## FROM JUNE 1st 1989 NEW ALITALIA LINK



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## Oman opens stock market

MUSCAT (R) — Oman opened its first stock market Saturday in hope of encouraging large but stagnant pools of private wealth to flow more efficiently into economic development.

"Our objective is to encourage people to save money and to finance the economy," said Mahmoud Mohammad Al Jarwan, director general of the exchange.

Commerce and industry Minister Salim Ibn Abdullah Al Ghazali opened trading with an order from the ruler, Sultan Qaboos.

The sultan's purchase of shares from the government will go to help children in need and was symbolic of the aim of the new market to widen the benefits of the corporate economy through privatisation.

Leading Arab economists have urged wealthy Gulf Arab states to develop capital markets to use the large funds available better and give an alternative to overseas investment.

Kuwait has an established stock market and Bahrain has opened one but it is not yet trading. Saudi Arabia has blown hot and cold over the idea but Qatar likes it and the United Arab Emirates has plans for a floor.

On the floor of the Oman market in the basement of the commerce ministry, brokers take orders directly or by telephone, writing up trades on the board for the 48 listed companies.

So far, only Omanis can enter the market save for some com-

panies which are already partly held by foreigners.

National Bank of Oman, for example, is 40 per cent held by the Bank of Credit and Commerce International.

These shares can be traded as long as the foreign holding remains below 35 per cent, Jarwan said.

The success of the market will depend on the government releasing some of its own holdings and on persuading other existing owners to sell their shares.

The government holds 15 to 70 per cent of shares in each of the listed companies, brokers said.

Many are so profitable that there is no great incentive to sell. "We have many buyers but we want sellers too," said one broker.

Investors are interested in the very large dividends, which give an average annual return of around 20 to 30 per cent on investments, brokers said.

Some companies have annual profits of one and a half times the value of their base capital.

The market's consultant, Dr. Hashem Sabbagh, who set up and is chairman of Jordan's Amman Financial market, said the ideal would be to have a quarter of Omanis as shareholders.

"Our aim is to push (existing holders) to sell more shares to the



Dr. Hashem Sabbagh

public," he said.

There are now 18,000 registered shareholders in Omani companies, including tightly-held shares in 23 firms traded outside the new exchange on an over-the-counter market. This is about 1.5 per cent of the population.

Sabbagh said he was looking to get a daily turnover of one to three million riyals (\$2.5 to \$7.5 million) in three years' time.

Shares were quoted first at their book value — the capital value of the company divided by the number of shares in issue.

Bids were then accepted.

Oman National Gas started with a book value of 1.83 riyals (\$4.72) and ended the first one-hour morning session bid at 4.50 riyals (\$11.61).

Not everyone was used to the idea of a stock exchange. One dignified old gentleman, wearing traditional robes with a curved dagger at his waist, strode on to the floor to get a closer look at the prices on the board.

The brokers welcomed him and shook his hand. They then ushered him back, asking politely if he would not mind standing outside the floor.

## Jordan amends tax policy on banks' income

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer

AMMAN — Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh has issued new instructions regarding interest and commission calculated by banks and financial institutions.

Income Tax Department Director-General Salman Al Tarawneh explained the new measures, which take effect from Jan. 1, 1989, stressing the comprehensive and deep studies which were conducted with the Central Bank of Jordan to end years of conflict over the timing of taxation levied on banking income.

The conflict has always been whether to tax interest and commission of banks and financial institutions upon the actual realisation (receipt of funds) of income at the end of the year or just upon the recording of interest and commission on the books regardless of the collection risk.

Tarawneh said that, according to the new approach, interest and commission of banks and financial institutions will be earmarked in a suspension account if a borrower stops payments on his dues or financial obligations. Therefore, he added, such banking income will not appear as profit until it is "physically" received by banks and financial institutions during the year or in future years.

The suspension account, as a result, will include all interest and commission of all borrowers who fail to keep their accounts active or whose credit facilities of loans, overdrafts or any other form of direct lending become doubtful for collection.

The instructions stipulated that banks and financial institutions should submit annual reports and certificates to the Income Tax Department, endorsed by the central bank, detailing the suspended interests and commissions for each year. Moreover, the banks and financial institutions would refrain from giving the borrowers any certificates of interest and commission which was suspended so as the amounts would not deductible from the borrower's overall income subject for tax.

Some labour unrest continues, including a strike by over 20,000 state iron and steel workers whose independent union is asking for a 300 per cent wage rise.

In the southeast city of Diyarbakir, over 1,000 roadbuilders who applied for divorce Tuesday on grounds of penury were told the court refused to accept their papers.

The workers had said they could not afford the initial 14,500 lira (\$7) fee to file for the divorce.

45 per cent in 1990.

The average state worker's former monthly wage, estimated at 190,000 lira (\$95) by the government, would not cover a family's food bills, newspaper surveys have shown.

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## Globetrotters — when a dream is shattered

John West

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two basketball matches took place at the Al Hussein Sports City last weekend. On Thursday, seven teams would have got you into a packed stadium to see the world famous Harlem Globetrotters put on an exhibition match against the Washington Generals. On Friday, 500 fans would have bought you a spacious seat to watch the Ahli and Orthodox clubs of Amman as they battled it out for the national Jordanian championship. Jordan Times sports editor John West was there to see them both, and in the first of two articles describes Thursday night with the Harlem Globetrotters.

"I'm going to promise you four things if you come tonight," Harlem Globetrotters' manager "Tex" Harrison said at a press conference at the Inter-Continental Hotel on Thursday afternoon.

"We're going to make you happy, we're going to make you laugh, we're going to make you forget your everyday trials and tribulations, and last but not least you're going to see athletes do more with a basketball than a monkey could with a peanut."

After such a prediction, and relentless fanfare of publicity, the event itself was a let down. The Globetrotters' astonishing skills couldn't mask the fact that the match wasn't a match. Wizardly ball-juggling and 30-metre over-head spin baskets were appreciated when they came, but they could not fill two hours by themselves. The crowd, which had been full of noisy expectation, gradually lapsed into long periods of silence. The children in the

crowd seemed happy enough, but after half an hour young men started slow handclaps, doubtless wondering what else they could have done with seven timers.

"I am very disappointed," one national sports journalist said at half time. "I rushed from the office to see this. They have always been a dream for me."

Hilal Barakat, on Jordan's national team, and waiting for Friday's final, was equally unmoved. "It's alright for five or ten minutes, but it isn't basketball."

Of course, the Harlem Globetrotters have not, in recent years anyway, claimed to be simply a basketball team like any other.

"We're not the best team in the world," Tex Harrison told his press conference audience, "but we're the best in the world at what we do." Those buffooning, magical, rascally, lovable, simply superlative whiz kids of the hard court —



Little Marwan's first basket: A brief moment of audience participation livens up an otherwise dull and expensive evening.

generations of children, fed by the famous cartoons, have cherished the idea that the Harlem Globetrotters were simply "something else," full of character and vibrancy that could not be measured by mere points on scoreboard. The Harlem Globetrotters were something to believe in. The Globetrotters were in Amman to hand that tradition on to another generation in their way round.

Their fatal mistake was to have a hoax opposition in the Washington Generals. No matter how hard they tried, their tricks could only be impressive rather than exciting — brilliance requires a basis of comparison, and the poor old Generals, marking their men from behind and running rings round themselves, didn't provide it. The competition wasn't even taken, like a exhibition wrestling. While the Globetrotters were treated to a razzamatazz introduction which lasted more than a quarter of an hour, the master of ceremonies could barely find time to read out the names of the Washington Generals. They had to be kept vaguely in the running (the final score, for what it's worth was Globetrotters 84, Generals 67), but all their baskets were scored somehow quickly and inconspicuously, while the Globetrotters were sometimes so elaborate in their build-up that the basket itself was an anticlimax, like a punchline to a joke you could see coming for two minutes.

West led the king of hearts. Although he appreciated the necessity of forcing Jimmy to ruff, West failed to find the correct continuation. The winning defense was to shift to a diamond, which would have left declarer powerless. Instead, West continued with the ace of hearts, which set up declarer's jack as the 12th trick.

Declarer ruffed in dummy and came to hand with the ace of spades, revealing the bad break. He cashed the jack of hearts, discarding a club from the table, ruffed a diamond and then cashed the three master clubs. When West failed to follow to the last of these, declarer ruffed a club, ruffed another diamond low, and then scored the last three tricks on a high crossruff as East under-ruffed helplessly. In all, declarer made three club tricks, one heart, three diamond ruffs and a heart ruff in dummy, and four trumps in his hand.

As entertainers they were unconvincing, working through their routine with an apparent lack of enthusiasm — possibly the result of a tour schedule which drags them through 28 cities in a month. Their materials was equally tired — bottom pinching, referee jostling, the old water

fight trick, sulking in the crowd, outrageous foals. They had neither the dynamism to make you belly laugh at those hoary old gags, or any hint of parody to replace it. There was more than a hint of old black caricature, the Alabama cotton picker from the south bent backwards and rubbing his stomach with laughter, and new black caricature, manic New Yorkers "yo-ing" each other mechanically. It was all very tired and a little distasteful. You got the impression that they should have trained entertainers to play basketball and not the other way round.

"They broke an image for me," one particularly idealistic spectator moaned after the match. Beyond the lack of excitement and wasted money, there was a very subtle, almost intangible feeling of gloom, so strong was the Globetrotters' legend.

Even when they were founded in 1927, the Harlem Globetrotters had no connection with Harlem, New York. They simply chose the name, at a time when blacks were systematically excluded from every aspect of American public life, including sports, to identify themselves as black, proud of it, and eminently superior in their field.

But times have changed. Black athletic prowess is now as often seen as a sign of discrimination in other walks of life as of success in itself. Jesse Owens threw Aryan supremacy back in Hitler's face, at the Munich Olympics of 1936. Jesse Jackson made a credible run for the American presidency in 1988, and within basketball itself, black superstars like Magic Johnson and Abdul-Karim Jabbar command the heights. The original raison d'être of the Harlem Globetrotters has faded away and only their image remains.

**Bulls to meet Pistons in NBA playoffs**

CHICAGO (R) — Michael Jordan, perfect from the foul line at the end, made two free throws with four seconds left as the Chicago Bulls beat the New York Knicks 113-111 Friday to win their National Basketball Association playoffs.

The victory gave Chicago a four games to two triumph in the Eastern Conference semifinals and put them into the conference finals against the Detroit Pistons, who will host the first game of the best-of-seven series Sunday.

The Western Conference finals begin Saturday with the Phoenix Suns going against the Lakers in Los Angeles.

Jordan, who led the scoring

with 40 points, appeared to put the game out of reach when he calmly sank two free throws with nine seconds remaining to give the Bulls a 111-107 edge.

The Knicks, however, worked a play to sharpshooter Trent Tucker who made a three-pointer and was given a chance for a four-point play when Craig Hodges committed an ill-advised foul on the shot.

Tucker converted from the foul line to level the score.

Chicago then went to their standard play — putting the ball in Jordan's hands. The spectacular Jordan drove the lane then pulled up to take a fadeaway jumper.

## Rush stages spectacular comeback to haunt Everton

### Liverpool nets F.A. Cup

LONDON (Agencies) — Welsh international striker Ian Rush came on as a substitute and scored twice in extra time Saturday as Liverpool beat city rivals Everton 3-2 in the English F.A. Cup soccer final.

Rush, the tormentor of Everton in 1986 when he scored twice in the only previous final between the two teams, scored after 95 and 104 minutes of a pulsating match which will forever be recalled as a memorial to the 95 Liverpool supporters who died in the Hillsborough tragedy last month.

The victory secured Liverpool's fourth F.A. Cup triumph and completed the first part of what will be an unprecedented English League and cup double if Liverpool clinch the championship next week.

Rush, who spent an unhappy year in Italy with Juventus before returning to Liverpool, had not scored for them since Feb. 4, but became the central figure of an emotional afternoon after replacing Irish international John Aldridge in the 72nd minute.

Aldridge had opened the scoring after four minutes and Liverpool seemed to be on course for a comfortable if unflattering win in normal time until Everton equalized dramatically in the final minute.

Substitute midfielder Stuart McCall stabbed the ball home to send the match into extra time and he levelled again, after Rush's first goal, with a brilliant volley after 102 minutes.

But Rush, like a ghost from

player-manager Graeme Souness came on as a substitute, but his team still could not overcome the Celtic defence. Striker Ally McCoist had the best chance to score with three minutes remaining in the match, but rifled the ball over the crossbar.

The losers missed the leadership of midfielder Ray Wilkins in the game. Wilkins, 32, the former captain of England's team, was sidelined because of a tendon problem in his ankle.

The Everton defence, caught square by Aldridge, was repeatedly opened up through the middle by the running of John Barnes. Peter Beardsley and Ray Houghton, a series of chances was wasted.

Aldridge sent a header wide. Barnes had one saved. Aldridge shot wide and then Barnes was crudely bodychecked by the clumsy Kevin Ratcliffe to prevent another goal before the interval.

Ratcliffe's misery was camouflaged for Everton by the excellence of Southall who saved brilliantly with his legs from Beardsley early in the second half and later from Barnes, Beardsley again and Rush in extra time.

His example inspired Everton's late rally and the breathless finish to normal time when Nevins ran the defence, central defender Dave Watson crossed low, Bruce Grobbelaar parried the ball and McCall scrambled it in.

The 82,800 fans were then treated to a spectacular final 30 minutes as Rush took over.

From Nicol's cross, he swivelled in the space between Watson and Ratcliffe to rap a high shot past Southall and make it 2-1.

Six minutes later McCall, collecting a wide clearance, lobbed Grobbelaar from 20 metres to level again before Rush, unmarked again, stooped to glance the winning header past fellow-Weishman Southall and complete the scoring.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Giro features U.S. and Soviet cyclists

TAORMINA, Sicily (AP) — The tour of Italy opens in this Sicilian resort Sunday, featuring U.S. and Soviet cyclists, the return of Stephen Roche of Ireland and Laurent Fignon of France and the debut of Colombian Luis Herrera and Belgian Claude Criquielion. Andrew Hampsten, the first American to win the Italian tour last year, and former world champion and tour of France winner Greg Lemond will be racing as well as an all-Soviet team led by Dimitri Konyshov and Piotre Ugrumov in the 22-stage marathon. Fifteen Soviet amateurs are making their first full season on the pro circuit, representing the Italian commercial team, Alfa Lancia. Nine of them start from Taormina. However the major threat to the American dream to win the "Giro" for a second consecutive year will come from others than the little-experienced Soviets. Hampsten, 27, won last year's edition gaining a decisive lead in snow-covered mountainous stages. The American said he expected tough competition from Roche, Fignon, Herrera and Dutchman Erik Breukink.

### F.A. to act against England fans international

LONDON (R) — The Football Association (F.A.) has promised action against a small group of English supporters whose behaviour marred a 2-0 victory by the England B team over Iceland in Reykjavik Friday night. About 20 fans chanted obscenities and verbally insulted England's black defender Paul Parker, an English official at the match confirmed. F.A. spokesman Glen Kirton said Saturday he had been in touch with his representative at the game who said there had been no actual violence. "But we are already taking steps to identify the people involved through their flight tickets, and their names will be put on to our 'blacklist,' if they are not already there," said Kirton. "They will also be passed on to the government, who hopefully will be able to prevent them from travelling abroad with England again," he added.

### American League baseball roundup

NEW YORK (AP) — Lou Whitaker broke a scoreless tie with a two-run, two-out homer in the ninth inning off Bret Saberhagen

Friday, giving the Tigers a 2-0 victory over Kansas City. Saberhagen, 3-4, walked Gary Pettis with one out. Chet Lemon flied out and Whitaker hit his 10th home run of the season, a drive just inside the right-field foul pole. Saberhagen struck out eight and walked one in his major-league leading sixth complete game. Mike Henneman, 1-0 allowed two hits in two innings, finishing the combined five-hitter. Doyle Alexander started and left in the sixth inning after Frank White's line drive hit him on the right side of the jaw. In other American League games, it was Cleveland 4, Baltimore 1; Toronto 9, Chicago 3; Texas 4, Minnesota 2; New York 9, Seattle 5; California 3, Milwaukee 1, and Boston 7, Oakland 4 in 10 innings.

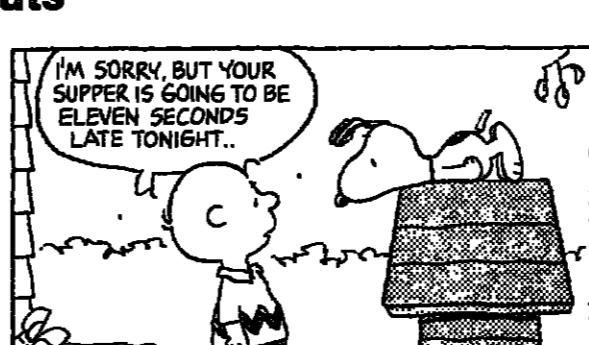
### Parliament beats Congress at tennis

BETHESDA, Maryland (AP) — With a lot of help from former Wimbledon champion Virginia Wade, a team of tennis players from Great Britain's parliament Friday won a doubles competition against players from both houses of Congress. The battle for the Congress-Parliament Challenge Cup pitted 10 players from each side in a round-robin competition. After all the sets were added up, parliament emerged a 13-12 winner. The victors received a cup from Wimbledon's archives, and parliament team captain John Hammann won a bucket of spiced Louisiana crawfish from the losing captain, Sen. John Breaux, a Louisiana Democrat, who lost out on an opportunity to win a keg of British ale.

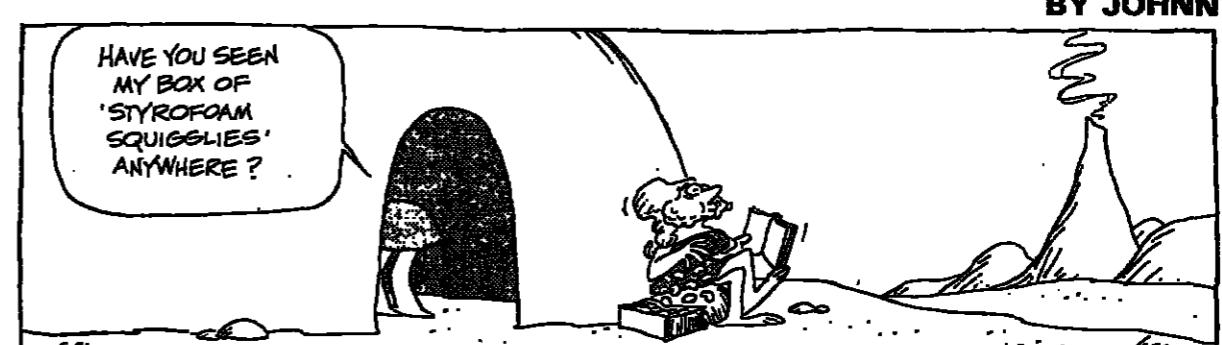
### Sherpa dies on Everest descent

KATMANDU, Nepal (AP) — Phu Dorje, a sherpa who guided a U.S.-Mexico expedition this week that put the first Mexican atop Mount Everest, fell to his death during the descent, according to a report received here Friday. Dorje, 26, slipped and fell to his death at the 8,550-metre (28,044-foot) level Tuesday, the same day he and another sherpa, Dawa Norbu, had reached the 8,848-metre (29,028-foot) summit along with Ricardo Torres Nava, 34, of Mexico City, the report from the expedition's base camp said. Dorje was on his second conquest of Everest. He had climbed it last autumn along with a U.S. expedition from the Pacific northwest.

## Peanuts



B.C.



BY JOHNNY HART

### Andy Capp



## Globetrotters — when a dream is shattered

John West

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two basketball matches took place at the Al Hussein Sports City last weekend. On Thursday, seven teams would have got you into a packed stadium to see the world famous Harlem Globetrotters put on an exhibition match against the Washington Generals. On Friday, 500 fans would have bought you a spacious seat to watch the Ahli and Orthodox clubs of Amman as they battled it out for the national Jordanian championship. Jordan Times sports editor John West was there to see them both, and in the first of two articles describes Thursday night with the Harlem Globetrotters.

"I'm going to promise you four things if you come tonight," Harlem Globetrotters' manager "Tex" Harrison said at a press conference at the Inter-Continental Hotel on Thursday afternoon.

"We're going to make you happy, we're going to make you laugh, we're going to make you forget your everyday trials and tribulations, and last but not least you're going to see athletes do more with a basketball than a monkey could with a peanut."

After such a prediction, and relentless fanfare of publicity, the event itself was a let down. The Globetrotters' astonishing skills couldn't mask the fact that the match wasn't a match. Wizardly ball-juggling and 30-metre over-head spin baskets were appreciated when they came, but they could not fill two hours by themselves. The crowd, which had been full of noisy expectation, gradually lapsed into long periods of silence. The children in the

crowd seemed happy enough, but after half an hour young men started slow handclaps, doubtless wondering what else they could have done with seven timers.

"I am very disappointed," one national sports journalist said at half time. "I rushed from the office to see this. They have always been a dream for me."

Hilal Barakat, on Jordan's national team, and waiting for Friday's final, was equally unmoved. "It's alright for five or ten minutes, but it isn't basketball."

Of course, the Harlem Globetrotters have not, in recent years anyway, claimed to be simply a basketball team like any other.

"We're not the best team in the world," Tex Harrison told his press conference audience, "but we're the best in the world at what we do." Those buffooning, magical, rascally, lovable, simply superlative whiz kids of the hard court —

## GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF

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PARTSCORE OR SLAM?

Both vulnerable. West deals.

**NORTH**

♦ K 10 8 4 3

♦ Q

♦ Void

♦ A K Q 6 7 6 2

**WEST**

EAST

♦ A ♦ 7 6 5

♦ Q A 8 5 4 9 6 2

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**SOUTH**

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## Armenians continue protests despite Kremlin concession

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Several hundred schoolchildren demonstrated in the Armenian capital Saturday as protests continued over the disputed Azerbaijani region of Nagorno-Karabakh despite apparent concessions by the Kremlin.

Journalists from the Armenian news agency Armenpress told Reuters that children, demanding the transfer of the mountainous region to Armenia, gathered in the centre of Yerevan.

"They want a just solution for Nagorno-Karabakh," said one journalist, predicting numbers were expected to swell during the day.

Troops and police did not attempt to break up the peaceful protest, which followed mass meetings in the city Wednesday and Thursday.

Factories in Stepanakert, capital of Nagorno-Karabakh, remained paralysed Saturday by a strike which started May 3, but there were no reports of demonstrations or violence, a journalist at the local official newspaper said.

A curfew remains in place in both cities. It was imposed after the death last year of 91 people in inter-ethnic clashes prompted by demands from Nagorno-Karabakh's Armenian majority for the enclave to be transferred from Azerbaijan to Armenia.

Journalists said the protesters were demanding that a session of the Armenian Supreme Soviet, or parliament, scheduled for June 27, should be brought forward.

The issue of Nagorno-Karabakh is likely to be raised at the meeting.

The protesters also want the release of jailed members of the Karabakh Committee, an unofficial Armenian group leading the campaign to win control of the enclave.

Their release was backed by Armenian Academy of Sciences after a stormy meeting this week, the journalists said.

They said there appeared to have been little reaction to a decision, which was released from prison Thursday pending trial, charged that children in several schools had been poisoned by gas that appeared similar to that used

Anatolia, without elaborating, said the plane was fully armed and a pistol was found in the cockpit.

According to Jane's All the World's Aircraft, a MiG-29 is armed with six medium-range and/or close-range air-to-air missiles. It can also carry other missiles and is capable of carrying bombs and 57-mm, 80-mm and 240-mm rockets. There is also one machine gun.

Flying with a bullet wound in his right arm, Zulyef landed at Trabzon after a 250-kilometre flight.

"He's got flesh wounds from one shot. We put a cast on... he says he wants to go to the United States," Trabzon university hospital director Burhan Piskin told Reuters.

Turkey routinely grants asylum to defectors from communist countries. Anatolia news agency said Zulyef had asked for asylum in Turkey.

"He's not too anxious, but he's not smiling either. I think he might be a little fearful," said Piskin, adding that Turkish authorities were questioning him at his hospital bed.

The fighter landed in Trabzon with pieces of tarpaulin cover hanging from parts of its fuselage and apparent crash damage to the left wing.

"Apparently he got into trouble before take-off," Batu said, adding that there might also be bullet holes in the fuselage.

Anatolian news agency said the pilot's first words on landing were "Take me to hospital," in English and Turkish.

## Soviet pilot defects with MiG-29

ANKARA (Agencies) — A Soviet air force captain who was fired upon when he flew off in a fighter jet from a Soviet airfield landed in Turkey Saturday in an apparent bid for asylum, officials said.

Turkish officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the pilot was expected to seek asylum and that the request would likely be granted.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Inal Batu said that the MiG-29 jet, which landed at the airport at the Black Sea city of Trabzon, would be returned to the Soviet Union.

He identified the pilot as Captain Alexander Zulyef of the Soviet air force's Mikoyan-Gurevich unit.

He said it appeared that the pilot was shot when the plane was fired upon as it took off from an airport north of the Soviet Black Sea city of Batumi.

The pilot was operated on and is in good condition at the Black Sea University medical school hospital in Trabzon, Batu told reporters.

Batu said the Soviet ambassador was called to the Foreign Ministry and told that the plane would be returned.

The semi-official Anatolia news agency, quoting local officials, said the jet landed at 5 a.m. (0300 GMT).

The dispatch said that the plane was picked up by Turkish radar and the pilot was warned to turn back but insisted on landing after lengthy radio conversations with Turkish officials.

## Marcos clinging to life

HONOLULU (Agencies) — Former Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos is critically ill in a Hawaii hospital, battling kidney failure and infection and lapsing into unconsciousness from time to time, doctors said.

"The prognosis remains very poor," said Eugene Tiwanak, assistant administrator at the St. Francis Hospital in Honolulu, where Marcos has been treated continuously for the past four months for a variety of ailments.

Tiwanak said although Marcos's fever had dropped slightly and some of his vital signs had improved, the exiled former president was in "very critical" condition in the intensive care unit late Friday.

Marcos's wife Imelda means while renewed an appeal to Philippines President Corazon Aquino to allow him to return to his homeland to die, saying in a handwritten letter:

"Perhaps a dying man's wish to go home... could be the answer to our unity as a people."

But Aquino told reporters in Manila that although she was praying for Marcos's recovery she would not allow him to return from exile, not even for burial, for security reasons.

About 1,000 people marched to Aquino's palace Saturday calling for Marcos to be allowed to return.

**'Scared Brezhnev had to be pushed to topple Khruschev'**

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin colleagues dragged a trembling Leonid Brezhnev to the telephone to make the call which led to him toppling Nikita Khrushchev as Soviet leader in 1964, according to a former KGB chief.

In an interview with the weekly *Argument i Fakti* published Friday Vladimir Semichastny, who headed the KGB state security service from 1961 to 1967 gave an intriguing insight into the coup which ousted Khrushchev.

Semichastny said what he called the "necessity to remove Khrushchev" began to be talked about in the spring of 1964. There had been previous attempts to remove him but he gave no details.

The initiative came from Brezhnev and Nikolai Podgorny, both members of the ruling Communist Party Central Committee Presidium, which later reverted

January.

The decision to grant the extra, but unspecified powers, was made public after a meeting of commission on inter-ethnic relations of the ruling Communist Party politburo, chaired by Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov.

Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has agreed to meet members of a delegation of deputies from Nagorno-Karabakh, who wrote an open letter published in Stepanakert newspaper expressing no confidence in the commission running the enclave.

The meeting is expected to take place before Thursday's inaugural session of the new Soviet parliament at which the issue could also be raised.

**March in Tbilisi**

Thousands of Georgians marched through the streets of the Republic's capital Tbilisi Friday in a memorial procession for a score of people who died last month in a clash between protesters and soldiers.

Among the participants were city and national officials, who granted permission for the march, Goldadze said. He said the march and religious service were "absolutely peaceful."

On the nationwide evening television news programme *Vremya* showed a brief report on the march, including streets filled with people and black-clad mourners crying and holding portraits of the dead. Young men carried black flags of mourning and Georgian national flags in the march, and raised clenched fists during a moment of silence.

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